

AVATAR

The Last Airbender

Show #318

BOOK THREE: Fire

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN: "Sozin's Comet Part 1, The Phoenix King"

Written By

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ACT ONE

EXT. FIRELORD'S SUMMER PALACE - DAY

The kids relax on the porch, sipping watermelon juice. They watch on as Aang performs an advanced Firebending sequence in the yard. Zuko stands nearby, barking orders at him.

ROKU
Previously on Avatar...

ZUKO
More ferocious! Imagine striking
through your opponent's heart!

AANG
I'm trying...

Aang gets a more determined look on his face and continues with the form.

ZUKO
Now let me hear you roar like a
tigerdillo!

AANG
(PATHETIC, WEAK GROWL)

ZUKO
That sounded pathetic. I said
roar!

This time, Aang lets out a FEROCIOUS ROAR and shoots an extra powerful blast of fire. Momo gets startled and hides behind Zuko. On the porch, Katara Waterbends juice into some cups. She calls out to Aang and Zuko.

KATARA
(enticing)
Who wants a nice, cool glass of
watermelon juice?

Aang's super-intense expression immediately lightens. He runs toward the porch.

AANG
Ooh! Me, me, me!

ZUKO
Hey, your lesson's not over yet.
Get back here!

SUKI

Come on, Zuko. Just take a break.
What's the big deal?

The sight of everyone relaxing infuriates Zuko.

ZUKO

Fine. If you want to lounge around
like a bunch of snail-sloths all
day, then go ahead!

Zuko storms off. The kids are stunned silent by Zuko's
outburst.

SOKKA

Maybe Zuko's right. Sitting around
the house has made us pretty lazy.
But I know just the thing to change
that--

(beat)

Beach party!

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. PRIVATE BEACH - DAY

The beach party is in full swing. Everyone is in appropriate
beach attire. Katara surfs on an ice board. Suki sunbathes
while Toph, Aang, and Sokka have a sand-sculpture contest.
Aang bends the sand into a pretty good likeness of Appa.

AANG

Check out my Appa sand sculpture.

Appa walks up to it and GROWLS.

TOPH

Not bad, baldy. But I've been
working on my Sandbending. You're
going to love this!

Toph bends the sand into an impressive 3D rendering of the
entire palace grounds at Ba Sing Se. Aang leans in and
points to two tiny, life-like figures.

AANG

Wow. You even made a little Earth
King and Bosco.

TOPH

Try and top that, Sokka.

Sokka reveals his creation: An amorphous mound of sand with seaweed hair that seems to resemble a person.

SOKKA

Ta da!

AANG

Is that a... blubbering
blobmonster?

SOKKA

(offended)

No, it's Suki!

Aang and Toph LAUGH.

TOPH

(to Suki)

Suki, we'll all understand if you
break up with him over this.

SUKI

I think it's sweet.

AANG

But it doesn't even look like --
AHH!

BLAM! Out of nowhere, a fireblast hits the Suki sculpture, creating an explosion of sand. Aang looks up at the nearby cliffs where he sees Zuko! Zuko runs and jumps off the cliffs, shooting more fire at Aang on his way down. Aang dives out of the way and hides behind the sand Appa. Zuko creates a fire wall in front of Sokka, Suki, and Toph so they can't help Aang.

AANG (cont'd)

What are you doing?!

ZUKO

Teaching you a lesson.

Zuko sends another volley of fire blasts at Aang, destroying the sand Appa. Aang leaps over the sand Ba Sing Se and jumps up the cliffs, back toward the house. Zuko runs through the sand Ba Sing Se, destroying it. With great speed and agility (parkour style) he climbs up the cliffs after Aang. Katara surfs onto the shore and puts out the fire with a wave.

KATARA

What happened?!

SOKKA

Zuko's gone crazy! I made a sand sculpture of Suki and he destroyed it!

(beat)

And he's attacking Aang!

They all run toward the house.

EXT. FIRELORD'S PALACE - CONTINUOUS

Zuko pursues Aang around the palace grounds, blasting fire at him. True to his nature, Aang only evades and redirects the blasts. Like a monkey, Aang climbs up a palm tree and jumps onto the roof of the house. Zuko climbs up the side of the house and onto the roof, where they face off once again.

AANG

Get a grip before I blast you off this roof!

ZUKO

Go ahead and do it!

Zuko attacks with a flurry of punches and kicks. Aang slides down the roof, then flips into an open window.

INT. FIRELORD'S PALACE - MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The fight moves inside. Aang hides behind a large bookcase. Zuko climbs in the window and looks around the empty room. In the reflection of a mirror, he sees Aang hiding. Zuko turns and fires as Aang Airbends the bookcase at Zuko. Zuko rolls out of the way as the bookcase crashes against the wall. Aang runs out of the room, followed close behind by Zuko.

INT. FIRELORD'S PALACE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Zuko relentlessly fires at Aang. The hallway becomes engulfed in flames. Aang has nowhere to go.

AANG

(furious)

Enough!

Aang sends a huge air blast at Zuko, knocking him through the wall at the end of the hall and simultaneously putting out the fires.

EXT. FIRELORD'S SUMMER PALACE - CONTINUOUS

Zuko crashes into some bushes. The rest of the kids arrive on the scene.

KATARA

What's wrong with you?! You could have hurt Aang!

ZUKO

What's wrong with me? What's wrong with all of you?! How can you sit around having beach parties when Sozin's comet is only three days away!

Everyone is silent.

ZUKO (cont'd)

Why are you all looking at me like I'm crazy?

AANG

About Sozin's comet... I was actually going to wait to fight the Firelord until after it came.

ZUKO

(disbelief)

After?

AANG

I'm not ready. I need more time to master Firebending.

TOPH

And frankly, your Earthbending could still use some work too.

ZUKO

(to the group)

So... you all knew Aang was going to wait?

SOKKA

Honestly, if Aang tries to fight the Firelord right now, he's gonna lose.

(to Aang)

No offense.

KATARA

The whole point of fighting the Firelord before the comet was to stop the Fire Nation from winning the war. But they pretty much won the war when they took Ba Sing Se. Things can't get any worse.

ZUKO

You're wrong. It's about to get worse than you can even imagine.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. FIRELORD'S PALACE - DAY

It's the day of the war meeting from 3.09. Zuko is late for the meeting. He rushes down the hall while servants help put on the various parts of his armor.

ZUKO (V.O.)

The day before the eclipse, my father asked me to attend an important war meeting. It was what I dreamed about and wanted for so many years -- my father had finally accepted me back.

The servants finish strapping on Zuko's armor and straighten his top knot. Zuko parts the curtains and enters...

INT. WAR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Several generals sit around a map of the world (similar to 1.12) The Firelord sits on his throne. Azula sits to his left. Imperial Firebenders stand on either side of the stage. Everyone turns when Zuko enters.

FIRELORD OZAI

Welcome, Prince Zuko... we waited for you.

Ozai motions to a spot next to him, at his right hand. Zuko sits down.

FIRELORD OZAI (cont'd)

General Shinu, your report.

General Shinu (from 1.13) stands and addresses everyone.

GENERAL SHINU

Thank you, sir. Ba Sing Se is still under our control.

(MORE)

GENERAL SHINU (cont'd)
However, Earthbender rebellions
have prevented us from achieving
total victory in the Earth Kingdom.

FIRELORD OZAI
What is your recommendation?

GENERAL SHINU
Our army is spread too thin. But
once the eclipse is over and the
invasion defeated, we should
transfer more domestic forces into
the Earth Kingdom.

To illustrate his point, Shinu moves some Fire Nation tokens
on the map into the Earth Kingdom. Ozai considers the
option.

FIRELORD OZAI
Hmmm. Prince Zuko, you've been
among the Earth Kingdom commoners.
Do you think that adding more
troops will stop these rebellions?

A long beat. Zuko considers his words carefully before
speaking.

ZUKO
The people of the Earth Kingdom are
proud and strong. They can endure
anything, as long as they have
hope.

FIRELORD OZAI
Yes, you're right...

Zuko smiles from his father's approval.

FIRELORD OZAI (cont'd)
...We need to destroy their hope.

Zuko looks shocked.

ZUKO
Well, that's not exactly what I--

Azula cuts him off.

AZULA
I think you should take their
precious "hope", and the rest of
their land, and burn it all to the
ground.

FIRELORD OZAI
Yes. Yes! You're right, Azula.

Ozai stands up and gets a crazed look in his eyes. His demeanor transforms from power-hungry leader into deluded messiah.

FIRELORD OZAI (cont'd)
Sozin's comet is almost upon us.
And on that day, it will endow us
with the strength and power of a
hundred suns. No bender will stand
a chance against us.

The generals all look at each other, a little confused.

GENERAL SHINU
What are you suggesting, sir?

FIRELORD OZAI
When the comet last came, my
Grandfather, Firelord Sozin, used
it to wipe out the Air Nomads. Now
I will use its power to end the
Earth Kingdom. Permanently.
(beat, growing more
intense and scary)
From our airships, we will rain
fire over their lands -- a fire
that will destroy everything. And
out of the ashes, a new world will
be born -- a world in which all the
lands are Fire Nation, and I am the
supreme ruler of everything!

Azula looks pleased. The generals hesitant CLAPS soon become enthusiastic APPLAUSE. TRUCK IN on Zuko's disturbed expression.

ZUKO (V.O.)
I wanted to speak out against his
horrifying plan. But I'm ashamed
to say I didn't.

BACK TO PRESENT:

EXT. FIRELORD'S SUMMER PALACE - DAY

Zuko sits on a rock.

ZUKO
My whole life, I struggled to gain
my father's love and acceptance.
(MORE)

ZUKO (cont'd)
But once I had it, I realized I
lost myself getting there. I'd
forgotten who I was.

A long beat of silence. The kids are visibly shocked by
Zuko's story.

KATARA
I can't believe this.

SOKKA
I always knew the Firelord was a
bad guy, but his plan is just pure
evil.

AANG
What am I going to do?

Zuko stands and approaches Aang.

ZUKO
I know you're scared. And I know
you're not ready to save the
world... but if you don't defeat
the Firelord before the comet
comes, there won't be a world to
save anymore.

Off Aang's overwhelmed reaction.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. FIRELORD'S SUMMER PALACE - DAY

The kids are still in the same location as the end of act one. Aang paces, holding his head. He's starting to lose it.

AANG

Why didn't you tell me about your
Dad's crazy plan sooner?

ZUKO

I didn't think I had to. I assumed
you were still going to fight him
before the comet. No one told me
you decided to wait!

AANG

This is bad. This is really,
really bad.

Katara grabs him and stops him.

KATARA

Aang, you don't have to do this
alone.

TOPH

Yeah... if we all fight the
Firelord together, we got a shot at
taking him down.

SOKKA

Alright! Team Avatar is back!

Sokka points to all the benders in the group.

SOKKA (cont'd)

Air... water... earth... fire...

Sokka points at Suki and himself.

SOKKA (cont'd)

...fan and sword!

Aang smiles, touched by his friends' support.

AANG

Fighting the Firelord is going to
be the hardest thing we've ever
done together. But I wouldn't want
to do it any other way.

SOKKA
(excited)
Yeah. Yeah. All Right!

Everyone (minus Zuko) joins in a big, group hug.

KATARA
Get over here, Zuko. Being part of
the group also means being part of
group hugs.

Zuko tentatively joins in.

EXT. FIRELORD'S SUMMER PALACE - COURTYARD - DAY

Zuko and Aang face each other. The rest of the kids load
Appa's saddle in preparation for their departure.

ZUKO
There's one technique you need to
know before facing my father -- how
to redirect lightning.

Zuko demonstrates the technique that Uncle taught him in
2.09. Aang mimics the fluid movements as they talk.

ZUKO (cont'd)
If you let the energy in your own
body flow, the lightning will
follow it. You turn your
opponent's energy against them.

AANG
That's like Waterbending!

ZUKO
Exactly. My Uncle invented this
technique himself, by studying
Waterbenders.

AANG
So... have you ever redirected
lightning before?

ZUKO
Once. Against my father.

AANG
What did it feel like?

ZUKO
Exhilarating...

Aang perks up.

ZUKO (cont'd)
...but terrifying.

Aang looks freaked out.

ZUKO (cont'd)
You feel so powerful holding that
much energy in your body, but you
know if you make the wrong move...
it's over.

AANG
(NERVOUS LAUGH) Well, not "over"
over, I mean there's always Katara
and a little spirit water action,
am I right?

But Aang's attempt at levity is met with only serious faces.

KATARA
Actually, I used it all up after
Azula shot you.

AANG
Oh.

ZUKO
You'll have to take the Firelord's
life... before he takes yours.

Aang is very troubled by the idea of "taking a life."

AANG
Yeah... I'll just do that.

EXT. FIRELORD'S SUMMER PALACE - OPEN FIELD - LATER

Sokka finishes setting up a stuffed Firelord dummy. He
attaches a melon head on which is painted the Firelord's
face.

SOKKA
Gather around, Team Avatar!

The group huddles around Sokka, who draws in the sand to
explain their strategy.

SOKKA (cont'd)
In order to take out the Firelord --
or in this case, the Melonlord --
our timing has to be perfect.
(MORE)

SOKKA (cont'd)
First, Suki and I will draw his
fire. Then, Katara and Zuko charge
in with some liquidy-hot offense.
And while the Melonlord is
distracted, Aang swoops in and BAM!
He delivers the final blow.

Aang looks a little wary at the words "final blow."

TOPH
Uh... what about me?

SOKKA
For now, you're the Melonlord's
forces.

TOPH
So I get to chuck flaming rocks at
all of you?

SOKKA
Whatever makes the training feel
most realistic.

TOPH
Sweetness.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. FIRELORD'S SUMMER PALACE - OPEN FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

At one end of the field, stands the Melonlord. Toph stands on a small hill behind the dummy, overlooking the action. At the other, everyone hides in position. Sokka makes a silent "go, go, go" gesture to Suki and they run toward the Melonlord, sword and fans in hand. Rock dummies slide toward them, blocking their path. Sokka slices one in half while Suki performs a flying kick, knocking another one over. A flaming, tar-covered rock CRASHES right in front of them. They barely dodge out of the way.

SOKKA
Watch it, Toph!

TOPH
I am not Toph, I am Melonlord!
(MANIACAL LAUGH)

While Toph fires more flaming rocks toward Sokka and Suki, Katara and Zuko run toward the Melonlord from the opposite side. Toph bends more rock dummies in their way, which Katara and Zuko expertly take down/destroy.

The two groups fight their way toward the Melonlord, dodging flaming rocks as they go. Even though it's just an exercise, it should feel dramatic and dangerous.

SOKKA

Now, Aang!

Aang runs and leaps off a rock, his staff raised over his head. We intercut between AANG'S P.O.V. of the Melonlord's head coming closer and closer, and AANG'S EXPRESSION as it changes from bold determination to apprehensive dismay. (NOTE: this moment could possibly be slo-mo.) Aang lands without striking.

ZUKO

What are you waiting for -- take him out!

AANG

I can't.

Sokka angrily marches up to Aang and gets in his face.

SOKKA

What's wrong with you?! If this was the real deal, you'd be shot full of lightning right now.

AANG

I'm sorry! But it just didn't feel right. I didn't feel like myself.

Without hesitation, Sokka slices the melon in half with his sword.

SOKKA

There. That's how it's done.

Momo runs up and eagerly eats out of an open melon half. Aang looks troubled and disturbed.

EXT. FIRELORD'S SUMMER PALACE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

The kids eagerly chow down their dinner, except for Aang who sits off to the side, picking at his plate. Sokka and Zuko consult a map as they eat. Katara comes out of the house, holding a scroll.

KATARA

I have a surprise for everyone!

TOPH

I knew it! You did have a secret thing with Haru!

KATARA
Uh... no. I was looking for
cooking pots up in the attic, and I
found this!

Katara unrolls a scroll painting of what appears to be
toddler Zuko innocently playing on the beach.

KATARA (cont'd)
Look at baby Zuko!
(baby talk)
Isn't he cute.

SOKKA/ SUKI/ KATARA
(LAUGHS)

Zuko has a sour look on his face.

KATARA
Oh, lighten up. I'm just teasing.

ZUKO
That's not me.
(beat)
It's my father.

An awkward silence falls over the group.

SUKI
But he looks so sweet and innocent.

ZUKO
Well that sweet little kid grew up
to be a monster. And the worst
father in the history of fathers.

Aang finally speaks up.

AANG
But he's still a human being.

ZUKO
You're going to defend him?

AANG
No. I agree with you. Firelord
Ozai is a horrible person and the
world probably would be better off
without him. But there's got to be
another way...

ZUKO
Like what?

AANG

I don't know... maybe we could make some big pots of glue and then I could use Glue-bending to stick his arms and legs together so he can't bend anymore?

ZUKO

(sarcastic)

Yeah, then you can show him his baby pictures and all those happy memories will make him good again.

AANG

Do you really think that would work?

ZUKO

No!

Aang paces around. His spiritual crisis weighs heavily on his mind.

AANG

This goes against everything I learned from the monks. I can't just go around wiping out people I don't like.

SOKKA

Sure you can. You're the Avatar. If it's in the name of keeping balance, I'm pretty sure the universe will forgive you.

Overwhelmed by his emotions, Aang lashes out at his friends.

AANG

This isn't a joke, Sokka! None of you understands the position I'm in.

KATARA

Aang, we do understand, it's just--

AANG

Just what, Katara?! What?!

KATARA

We're trying to help!

AANG

Then when you figure out a way for me to beat the Firelord without taking his life, I'd love to hear it.

Aang storms off, into the house. Katara gets up and starts to follow.

KATARA

Aang, don't walk away from this!

Zuko puts a hand on her shoulder, stopping her.

ZUKO

Let him go. He needs time to sort it out by himself.

INT. AANG'S ROOM - LATER

Aang sits in the lotus position, meditating. His hands are in a mudra that the guru showed him in 2.19. An offering of candles, fruit, and watermelon juice sits on a shrine in front of him. Momo jumps on his lap, interrupting his meditation.

AANG

Hey, Momo. I don't suppose you know what I should do?

AANG (cont'd)

I didn't think so.

Momo curls up next to Aang as he returns to his meditation.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AANG'S ROOM - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

The candles are completely melted and Aang and Momo are both asleep on the floor.

EXT. MYSTERIOUS ISLAND - THE SAME TIME

From a MYSTERIOUS P.O.V. (actually the island's P.O.V., through the trees) we see the Summer Palace on a hill in the distance. The coast is covered in mist. A low, droning note sounds.

INT. AANG'S ROOM - THE SAME TIME

The low, droning note continues. Aang slowly rises and starts sleepwalking. Momo wakes up and follows Aang out of the room.

EXT. FIRELORD'S SUMMER PALACE - MOMENTS LATER

Still in a trance, Aang leaves the house and walks toward the beach where a mysterious, tree-covered island sits just off the shore -- an island that wasn't there before.

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Aang emerges out of the mist, and continues toward the mysterious island. Aang is drawn towards it, almost as if the island is calling to him. He walks into the water and swims toward the island.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. ESTABLISHING - COAST OF EMBER ISLAND - MORNING

The mist has cleared. The mysterious island is nowhere in sight.

EXT. FIRELORD'S SUMMER PALACE - COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

All the kids load up Appa's saddle in preparation for their departure. Sokka packs up the last of the supplies.

SOKKA

Okay, that's everything.

TOPH

No, it's not. Where's Aang?

The kids look at each other, concerned.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. FIRELORD'S SUMMER PALACE - VARIOUS - MOMENTS LATER

The kids split up and run through the halls and various rooms, looking for Aang.

ZUKO

Aang? Aang!

TOPH

Come on, lazybones! Let's go!

INT. AANG'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sokka and Suki enter Aang's room. Sokka finds Aang's staff. Katara enters behind them.

SOKKA

He left his staff. That's so strange...

There is a strange red mark on Sokka's neck, but everyone is too concerned with Aang's disappearance to mention it. Toph and Zuko run up to the doorway.

ZUKO

Aang's not in the house. Let's check the beach.

EXT. PRIVATE BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

The kids run onto the beach and look around. Sokka spots something.

SOKKA

Look! There's his footprints.

They follow the trail of footprints. They lead into the water.

SOKKA (cont'd)

The trail ends here.

SUKI

So... he went for a midnight swim
and never came back?

KATARA

Maybe he was captured.

SOKKA

I don't think so. There's no sign
of a struggle.

TOPH

I bet he ran away again.

SOKKA

Uh-uh. He left behind his glider
and Appa.

TOPH

Then what do you think happened to
him, oh sleuthy one?

SOKKA

(super-confident)

It's pretty obvious. Aang
mysteriously disappears before an
important battle? He's definitely
on a spirit world journey.

ZUKO

But if he was, wouldn't his body
still be here?

Sokka deflates.

SOKKA

Oh, yeah. Forgot about that.

KATARA

Then he's got to be somewhere on
Ember Island. Let's split up and
look for him.

Toph eagerly raises her hand.

TOPH
I'm going with Zuko!

The kids all look at her, a bit surprised.

TOPH (cont'd)
What? Everyone else went on life-
changing field trips with Zuko.
Now it's my turn.

SEARCHING FOR AANG MONTAGE:

EXT. EMBER ISLAND - COAST - MORNING

Sokka circles the island's coast on Appa. He flies low by the cliffs, making sure not to be spotted. No sign of Aang...

EXT. EMBER ISLAND - TOWN CENTER - MORNING

Katara and Suki walk through the center of town.

CROWD (O.S.)
Aang! Aang! Aang! (CHEERS)

Excited, Katara and Suki rush toward the sound of the crowd. They round a corner and see the annoying Actress Aang (from 3.17) signing autographs for some kids outside the theater. Katara and Suki walk away, looking disappointed.

EXT. EMBER ISLAND - WEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

Zuko walks in front of Toph with a focused look on his face.

TOPH
...And then when I was nine, I ran
away again.

ZUKO
Uh-huh.

TOPH
I know I shouldn't complain. My
parents gave me everything I ever
asked for, but they never gave me
the one thing that I really wanted -
- their love. You know what I
mean?

Zuko stops and turns to Toph.

ZUKO

Look, I know you had a rough
childhood, but we should really
focus on finding Aang.

Zuko turns and walks away. Toph looks a little hurt.

TOPH

This is the worst field trip ever.

END MONTAGE

EXT. FIRELORD'S SUMMER PALACE - LATER

The kids are sitting on the porch looking defeated. Sokka
lands with Appa.

SOKKA

Judging by the looks on your faces,
I'm guessing you guys didn't find
Aang either.

ZUKO

No. It's like he just...
disappeared.

Suddenly, Toph perks up.

TOPH

Hey, wait a minute. Has anyone
noticed that Momo's missing too?

SOKKA

Oh no, I knew it was only a matter
of time! Appa ate Momo!

Sokka opens Appa's mouth and sticks his head in.

SOKKA (cont'd)

Momo, I'm coming for you, buddy!

He starts to climb into Appa's mouth.

KATARA

Sokka, Appa didn't eat Momo. He's
probably with Aang.

Sokka is inside Appa's open mouth, looking around.

SOKKA

That's just what Appa wants you to
think.

ZUKO

Get out of the bison's mouth,
Sokka. We have a real problem
here. Aang is nowhere to be found
and the comet is only two days
away.

KATARA

What should we do, Zuko?

Everyone turns their attention to Zuko.

ZUKO

I don't know. Why are you all
looking at me?

KATARA

Well... you are kind of the expert
on tracking Aang.

TOPH

Yeah, if anyone's got experience
hunting the Avatar, it's you.

Zuko ponders the task that's been given to him.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. SKY - OVER OCEAN - DAY

The kids are all in Appa's saddle. Zuko sits in Aang's usual
spot, holding the reins.

SOKKA

Zuko, I don't want to tell you how
to do your job, but why are we
heading toward the Earth Kingdom?
There's no way Aang's there.

ZUKO

Just trust me.

Appa vanishes into the ocean's vast horizon.

EXT. FIRE NATION CAPITAL - PORT - SUNSET

A large crowd, including Fire Sages and Royals are gathered.
Firelord Ozai's servants carry him in a palanquin to his
ship. Farther back, Azula sits in her palanquin, berating
her servants.

AZULA

Come on, slow pokes! Faster!

The servants start running.

EXT. DECK OF OZAI'S SHIP - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone bows as Ozai steps out of his palanquin. Azula's servants run onto the deck, carrying Azula. They drop off Azula and collapse in exhaustion.

AZULA

Sorry I'm late, father. Good palanquin bearers are so hard to come by these days. So, is everything ready for our departure?

FIRELORD OZAI

There has been a change of plans, Azula.

AZULA

What?

FIRELORD OZAI

I've decided to lead the fleet of airships to Ba Sing Se alone. You will remain here, in the Fire Nation.

Azula looks hurt, and starts to get flustered.

AZULA

But, I thought we were going to do this together.

FIRELORD OZAI

My decision is final.

AZULA

You... you can't treat me like this. You can't treat me like Zuko!

FIRELORD OZAI

Azula, silence yourself.

AZULA

But it was my idea to burn everything to the ground! I deserve to be by your side!

FIRELORD OZAI

Azula!

Azula stops arguing. She stares at her father with a mixture of hurt and anger.

FIRELORD OZAI (cont'd)
Listen to me. I need you here to
watch over the homeland. It's a
very important job that I can only
entrust to you.

Azula start to calm down.

AZULA
Really?

FIRELORD OZAI
And for your loyalty, I've decided
to declare you the new Firelord.

Azula looks surprised and delighted.

AZULA
Firelord Azula?... It does seem
appropriate.
(beat)
But what about you?

FIRELORD OZAI
Firelord Ozai is no more. Just as
the world will be reborn in fire, I
shall be reborn as the supreme
ruler of the world. From this
moment on, I will be known as...

Ozai takes off his robe and headpiece, then kneels. Two Fire
Sages adorn him with a new robe and headpiece.

FIRELORD OZAI (cont'd)
...The Phoenix King!

As Ozai stands, we reveal that Ozai's robe and headpiece are
emblazoned with golden phoenixes. Everyone bows.

EXT. ESTABLISHING - SEEDY TAVERN - SUNSET

Appa sits outside the seedy tavern from 1.15.

INT. SEEDY TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

The kids enter and make their way through the sketchy crowd.

KATARA

And the reason you've brought us to
a seedy Earth Kingdom tavern is
what now?

ZUKO

June.

Zuko points to the center of the tavern where JUNE (from
1.15) fights a BUFF GUY.

SOKKA

Oh yeah -- that weird bounty hunter
with the giant mole.

SUKI

Mole? Her skin is flawless.

SOKKA

No, she has this giant mole
creature she rides around on.

ZUKO

The Shirshu. It's the only animal
that can track Aang's scent
anywhere in the world. It's the
one shot we have of finding him.

Just then, June throws the Buff Guy to the ground, winning
the fight.

TOPH

I don't know who this June lady is,
but I like her!

EXT. MYSTERIOUS ISLAND - SUNSET

Aang wakes up as Momo licks his face.

AANG

(groggy)

Hey, Momo. I just had the
strangest dream.

Aang gets up and has a look around. Through the trees, he
sees nothing but water.

AANG (cont'd)

Wait...

TRUCK OUT to reveal the island is surrounded by the vast
ocean -- there is no land in sight.

AANG (cont'd)
Where are we?

TO BE CONTINUED...

END OF SHOW